

Filed for intro on 02/14/2001  
HOUSE BILL 1376 By  
Kent

SENATE BILL 1653  
By Clabough

AN ACT to amend  
T.C.A.  
10-7-504 regarding  
security and  
confidentiality of  
private account and  
financial  
information.

WHEREAS vendors and contractors to State government may be required to provide State employees with bank account information and similar code and password information to facilitate payments; and

WHEREAS disclosure of such information may cause harm to such vendors and contractors, and is not needed to provide

public oversight or access to the functioning of State government; and

WHEREAS public disclosure of such information could cause such vendors and contractors to refuse to contract with the State; and

WHEREAS this poses a threat to the orderly functioning of government and the provision of necessary services to citizens of this State; and

WHEREAS a narrow limitation on the broad scope of the Public Records Act of this State is necessary to protect the integrity of State operations and the privacy rights of Tennessee citizens, now therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 10-7-504, is hereby amended by adding the following, which shall be designated as subsection (i)

(1) The bank account numbers, federal identification numbers, and social security numbers of vendors and contractors doing business with the State and grantees under State programs are confidential and shall not be open for inspection by members of the public. Any related numbers, codes, or passwords used to access bank accounts or confidential information of State

vendors, grantees and contractors are confidential and shall not be open for inspection by members of the public.

(2) Information made confidential by this subsection shall be redacted wherever possible and nothing in this subsection shall be used to limit or deny access to otherwise public information because a file, a document, or data file contains confidential information.

(3) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to limit access to these records by law enforcement agencies, courts, or other government agencies performing official functions.

(4) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to close any vendor, grant or contract files of State agencies which are currently open under state law.

(5) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to limit access to information made confidential under this subsection, when the vendor, contractor or grantee expressly authorizes the release of such information.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.